

21st International Conference on Subterranean Biology, Košice, Slovakia, 2–7 September 2012

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Organizer: Institute of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Science, P. J. Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia

Organizing committee: Ľubomír Kováč, Andrej Mock, Peter Ľuptáčik, Igor Hudec, Marcel Uhrin, Vladimír Papáč, Zuzana Višňovská, Peter Hlaváč

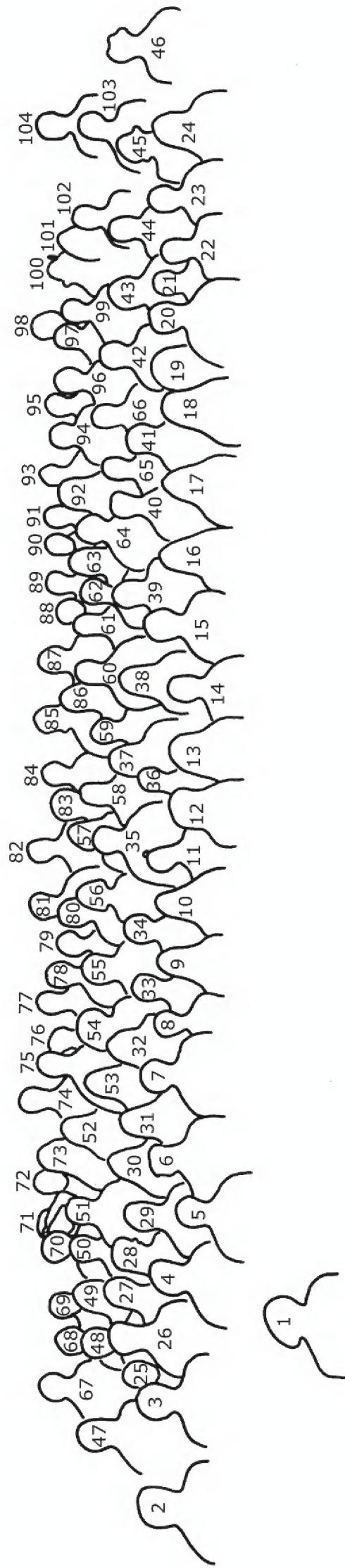
Scientific committee: David C. Culver (USA), Louis Deharveng (France), William F. Humphreys (Australia), William R. Jeffery (USA), Remko Leijis (Australia), Oana T. Moldovan (Romania), Tone Novak (Slovenia), Pedro Oromí (Spain), Martin Plath (Germany), Valerio Sbordoni (Italy), Boris Sket (Slovenia), Eleonora Trajano (Brazil).

The Conference was held at the university campus in Košice City centre under the auspices of the International Society for Subterranean Biology. It hosted 116 participants from 20 countries: Brazil (16), Slovakia (14), Croatia (11), Slovenia (11), Czech Republic (10), Germany (8), USA (7), Australia (6), Italy (6), Romania (6), France (4), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Iran (3), Mexico (2), Poland (2), Spain (2), Switzerland (2), Great Britain (1), Portugal (1) and Serbia (1).

The Society supported altogether 10 young participants with travel grants: Kym Abrams (Australia), Jana Bedek (Croatia), Livia Cordeiro-Borghezan (Brazil), Teo Delič (Slovenia), Somayeh Esmaeili (Iran), Marjeta Konec (Slovenia), Ioana Meleg (Romania), Thais Giovanni Pellegrini (Brazil), Ana Sofia Reboleira (Portugal) and Erika Taylor (Brazil).



Figure 1. Conference participants. Photo: V. Kalinčáková.



Legend to conference participants: **1** Andrej Mock **2** Marconi Souza Silva **3** Matheus B. Mescolotti **4** Bernd Hauser **5** Christian Juberthie **6** Pierre J. Strinati **7** Valerio Sbordoni **8** Marina Cobolli **9** Monika Balogová **10** Dajana Hmura **11** Maja Hodžíč **12** Ana Sofia P. S. Reboleira **13** Janice Muriel-Cunha **14** Elžbieta Dumnicka **15** Horst Wilkens **16** Luiza B. Simóes **17** Marcella P. Uchoa **18** Kym M. Abrams **19** Rachael A. King **20** Florian Malard **21** Ioana N. Meleg **22** Cornelia Spengler **23** Maria Avramov **24** Lou Maurice **25** Peter Luptáčik **26** Remko Leijis **27** Thami G. Silva **28** Anděla Čukušić **29** Stuart Halse **30** Tamara Čuković **31** Ana Komercíč **32** Helena Bilandžija **33** Jana Bedek **34** Vladimír Košel **35** Jean-Jacques Geoffroy **36** Hans S. Reip **37** Elke Aden **38** Ulrike Strecker **39** Jaroslav Smrž **40** Michal Rendoš **41** Alena Nováková **42** Vladimír Šustr **43** José D. Gilgado **44** Alexander M. Weigand **45** Sanja Gottstein **46** David Eme **47** Lubomír Kováč **48** Gregor Aljančič **49** Magdalena Nápráruš **50** Zuzana Višňovská **51** William Jeffery **52** Thais G. Pellegrini **53** Iva Njunjic **54** Marko Lukšić **55** Martina Pavlek **56** Lucie Vohná **57** Beata Adamczyk **58** Giuseppe Messana **59** Oana T. Moldovan **60** Stefano Taiti **61** Maria E. Bichuette **62** Pedro Oromí **63** Lívia M. Cordeiro-Borghезan **64** Karel Tajovský **65** Somayeh Esmaeli-Rineh **66** Vahid Akmalí **67** Branko Jalžić **68** Aleksandra Kilian **69** Jaroslav Svatoň **70** Roman Ozimec **71** Mladen Kučinić **72** Slavko Polak **73** Erika L. S. Taylor **74** Marcus P. A. Oliveira **75** Rodrigo L. Ferreira **76** Vladimír Papač **77** Traian Brad **78** Alica Chroňáková **79** Edita Miková **80** Peter Fenda **81** Marcel Uhrin **82** William F. Humphreys **83** Eleonora Trajano **84** Marie-José Turquin **85** Marcus V. Dominguez **86** Laura Epure **87** Jonas E. Gallão **88** Rodica Plăiașu **89** Steven J. Taylor **90** Horton H. Hobbs III **91** Hans J. Hahn **92** Tanja Pipan **93** Peter Tronceti **94** David Culver **95** Daniel W. Fong **96** Vlastimil Růžička **97** José G. Palacios-Vargas **98** Ian Moody **99** Jason Corbett **100** Robert A. Susac **101** Barbara Zakrzewska **102** Maja Zgmaister **103** Ivica Barač, and **104** Valerio Kettmaier. Sketch: P. Luptáčik.

“Subterranean realm – fragile ecosystems and unique biodiversity: towards new concepts” was a central topic of the event highlighting the necessity of complex study of subterranean environments. The scientific program was divided in seven symposia offered in advance:

- Subterranean Biodiversity
- Adaptation, Development, Physiology and Behaviour
- Phylogeography, Phylogeny and Evolution
- Microbiology and Geomicrobiology and Sedimentology
- Population and Community Ecology of Subterranean Organisms
- Subterranean Ecosystems
- Conservation of Subterranean Life

In total 70 oral presentations, 67 posters and 1 video document were presented during four conference days. Young participants were awarded by Scientific Committee of the Society: Alexander M. Weigand for the best oral presentation and Dajana Hmura for the best poster. Gregor Aljančič and Magdalena Năpăruş were awarded for oral presentation with important message to conservation of subterranean life. The other details on the conference are provided on the web page www.icsb2012.eu, including video records of the oral presentations.

Other events included welcome reception in Guest House Grand and Košice downtown visit by walk with guide. During the mid-conference excursion the participants visited two important show caves of Slovakia – Dobšinská Ice Cave and Demänovská Cave of Liberty. Museum of the Liptov Village in Pribylina displayed the typical folk architecture. The conference finished with the social dinner at House of Art.

General Assembly of ISSB elected new members of the Council Board and approved candidature of Mexico for organization of the next conference. It will be held on August 31–September 5, 2014 in Juriquilla campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Querétaro state. The main organizer is José G. Palacios-Vargas (UNAM).

See you in Mexico in 2014!

On behalf of organizing committee of the 21st ICSB conference

Lubo Kováč